

CHS Drama Workshop Arts Festival Hit

The Cohasset High School Drama Workshop last week performed Jules Feiffer's "Hold Me" at the Town

Hall — a show presented in conjunction with the South Shore Arts Festival. Director Ron Emmons is

trying to build Drama Workshop funds to that new lighting can be added to the high school auditorium. The 1979

class donated \$800 toward black velour backdrop and side curtains for the stage, another contribution toward more effective drama performances.

"Knock, Knock," also a Feiffer production will be performed by the cast August 17 and 18. "Hold Me" was buoyed by alumni members of the Workshop, Emmons explained, to give undergraduates a chance to spend the summer working with more experienced actors.

"Hold Me" went the gamut of emotions. Anyone who has read the Feiffer comic or rather tragic strip, knows that he regularly examines the futility and joy of life, love and frustration. And so, in a wonderfully combined series of sketches, the Drama Workshop portrayed the continuing saga of the human condition.

The modern human condition, that is, for no matter how normal a character attempted to be, a neurotic side sneaked out — sometimes foiling, sometimes offering success to the particular protagonist. For instance, the search for self, for me-ness, seemed a constant quest of the characters. Freedom was sought by getting a divorce and partying, beauty was sought behind a series of masks, and social success was gained only with the aid of a self-serving machine.

Perhaps the most poignant message from the production

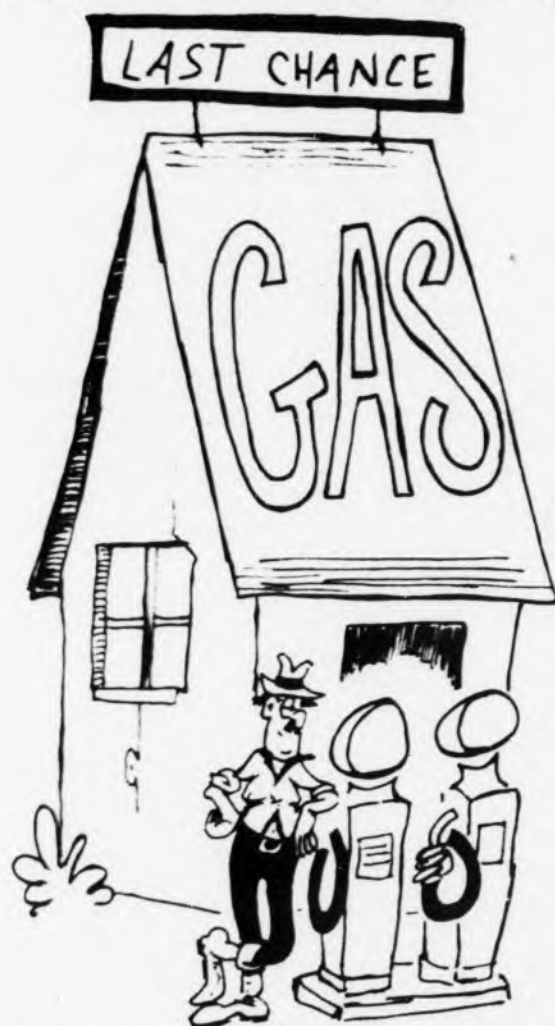
emerged when a young woman, at the prompting of her annoyed boyfriend, realized that she was free to go her own way. As she releases her strangle hold on him and starts to walk off to live her own life, he becomes startled and worried. "Hold me," he begs her as he runs after her.

Beth Donahue, Meri Fink, Lisa O'Toole, Disa Pratt and Jim Vivian appeared in the Drama Workshop production of "Story Theatre" which won the state drama competition this year. All five were named to the state all-star cast. In addition, Meri and Jim were selected as two of the top 15 best high school performers in New England. Meri, Lisa and Disa will be seniors at Cohasset High School next fall. Beth will study theatre at Emerson College this year, while Jim begins his theatre studies at Boston University.



ACTORS AT WORK in scene from Hold Me, Cohasset Drama Workshop production at recent Arts Festival at Town Hall.

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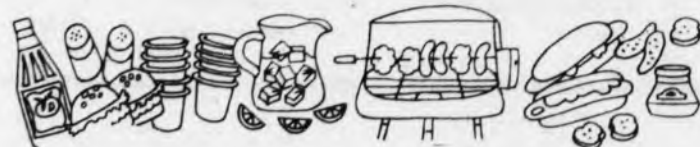
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